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GOVERNMENT STATEMENT DECLARES 200-MILE ECONOMIC ZONE

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[Text of 12 May SRV Government "statement on Vietnam's territorial waters, adjacent areas, areas of special economic rights and the continental shelf"]

[Text] The SRV Government, with the approval of the SRV National Assembly Standing Committee, declares its definition of the sea areas and continental shelf of the SRV as follows:

1. The territorial waters of the SRV are 12 nautical miles wide from the base line linking the furthestmost points of the coast ^{not with} and the outermost points of Vietnam's offshore islands, measuring from the lowest tidal mark outward. The sea areas lying inside the base line and adjacent to the coast are interior waters of the SRV. The SRV exercises full and complete sovereignty over its territorial waters as well as over the air space, the bottom of the sea and the earth layers under the sea bottom within these territorial waters.
2. The areas adjacent to the territorial waters of the SRV--which are the sea areas immediately outside Vietnamese territorial waters--are 12 nautical miles wide. These areas, together with the Vietnamese territorial waters, form a sea area 24 nautical miles wide, measuring from the base line used to compute the width of the Vietnamese territorial waters. The SRV Government will exercise necessary control over the areas adjacent to its territorial waters in order to maintain security, protect its interests concerning customs and taxes and guarantee respect for regulations on health, emigration and immigration in Vietnamese territory or territorial waters.
3. The areas of special economic rights of the SRV lie immediately adjacent to the Vietnamese territorial waters and form, together with the Vietnamese territorial waters, a sea area 200 nautical miles wide measuring from the base line used to compute the width of Vietnamese territorial waters. The SRV has total sovereignty over the exploration, exploitation, protection and control of all natural resources, both biological and nonbiological, in the waters, the sea bottom and the earth layers under the sea bottom in the areas of special economic rights of Vietnam; has the right and special authority to set up and use projects, equipment and artificial islands; has special authority over other activities designed to serve the exploration and exploitation of these areas of special economic rights for economic purposes; and has special authority for scientific research in the areas of special economic rights of Vietnam. The SRV has authority over the protection of the environment against pollution in the areas of special economic rights of Vietnam.
4. The SRV's continental shelf includes the sea bottom and the earth layer under the sea bottom which is part of the natural extension of the Vietnamese continent and which expands beyond the Vietnamese territorial waters up to the outer fringes of the continent. Wherever the outer fringes of the continent are less than 200 nautical miles distant from the base line used to calculate the width of Vietnamese territorial waters, the continental shelf will be extended to 200 nautical miles measuring from this base line.

The SRV has full sovereignty over the exploration, exploitation, protection and management of all natural resources of the Vietnamese continental shelf including mineral, nonbiological and biological resources of the settled category in the Vietnamese continental shelf.

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5. All the islands and archipelagoes belonging to Vietnamese territory and situated outside the territorial waters mentioned in Article 1 have their own territorial waters, adjacent areas, areas of special economic rights and continental shelves as specified in Articles 1, 2, 3 and 4 of this statement.

6. Based on the principles of this statement, specific problems relating to the territorial waters, adjacent areas, areas of special economic rights and continental shelf of the SRV will be defined with more details on the basis of the protection of the sovereignty and interests of the SRV and in conformity with international law and customs.

7. The SRV Government will, together with the countries concerned and through negotiations based on mutual respect for independence and sovereignty and in conformity with international law and customs, solve problems relating to the sea areas and continental shelf of each party.

Hanoi, 12 May 1977

LAWYER CITES U.S. 'RESPONSIBILITY', WANTS 'CONCRETE ACTS'

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[Text] On 17 May our correspondent interviewed lawyer Duong Van Dam, member of the Executive Committee of the Vietnam Lawyers Association, about the responsibility and duty of the United States to contribute to healing the wounds of war and to postwar reconstruction in Vietnam.

About relations between the SRV and the United States, lawyer Duong Van Dam says: With regard to the United States, the SRV Government has raised three main questions of mutual concern; they include: the seeking of information about Americans missing in action, the U.S. contribution to healing the wounds of war and postwar reconstruction in Vietnam, and the normalization of relations between Vietnam and the United States. These three questions are interrelated and form the content of three provisions of the Paris agreement on Vietnam.

After underlining the goodwill gesture of Vietnam toward relations between the two countries, lawyer Duong Van Dam points out: However, in response to the good will of Vietnam, Washington has not yet given up its erroneous policy. It is still seeking to shirk its duty and responsibility to contribute to healing the wounds of war and postwar reconstruction in Vietnam. Moreover, the United States is conducting a campaign of distorting the correct stand of the Vietnamese Government, creating illusions among the public about its goodwill toward the prompt normalization of the relations between the two countries.

U.S. attempts to run away from this responsibility and duty is causing deep resentment among the progressive public in the world and even in the United States. The whole progressive mankind has sternly condemned the criminal war of aggression against Vietnam conducted by the United States under five successive presidents. As for the United States, this stain can hardly be washed out.

The crime of aggression committed by neocolonialism is the most serious one. All the international lawyers's conferences and international tribunals have unanimously condemned the U.S. imperialists for violating the fundamental national rights of the Vietnamese people and the right to national reunification and independence of Vietnam as stipulated by the Geneva agreements of 20 July 1954.